



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

October 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have a big celebration coming up at the end of the month. We will celebrate our 91st anniversary, Reformation Sunday, and we will host the newly-installed bishop of our synod, Reverend Yehiel Curry during worship on October 27th. It will be a busy month preparing for this day of celebration. There will be a reception following worship on October 27th to welcome Bishop Curry. Please mark the date on your calendar, and make every effort to attend worship on the 27th. I promise you will hear a good message from our new bishop, and it will be a festive worship because we have so much to celebrate.

As I begin to prepare for this day of celebration my mind is a little all over the place. I am reading old reports and anniversary booklets from Acacia's former anniversary celebrations. I am looking through the Reformation 500 source book that I used to help plan the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation worship service we had in 2017. I am also reading about Bishop Curry and getting ready for my first meeting with him when I attend a clergy meeting at the synod office.

I want to take a moment to share some highlights of my research with you:

In the 50th anniversary booklet in 1978, the Reverend Paul E. Erickson, president of the LCA, Illinois Synod (Before the ELCA was formed) gave this prayer to the congregation, "We give praise to Almighty God, Who has enabled people to fulfill His will and purpose in ministry at Acacia Park Church. May God Who has called you, continue to bless and inspire you by the power of His Holy Spirit to continued ministry in the Lord's Name." This prayer from 41 years ago is still our prayer today.

The *Reformation Worship Source Book* reminded me just how grounding Martin Luther's Morning and Evening prayers are:

Morning Prayer, "I am a beloved child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Your mercies are new every morning. Thank you gracious God, for the gift of this new day. Awaken me to your abiding presence; open my eyes to your creation; open my eyes to your promise; open my

heart to the needs of others. Fill me with your Spirit and guide me this day in works of kindness, justice, and mercy. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the light and life of the world. Amen."

Evening Prayer, "I am a beloved child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Come to me, all you that are weary and I will give you rest. Thank you gracious God, for the gift of this coming night. Restore me with your right spirit. Calm my mind. Quiet my heart. Enfold me with your bountiful mercy. Protect me from all harm, that I sleep assured of the peace found in you alone. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who gives us rest. Amen."

Finally, from Bishop Curry's bio on the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website: "Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected June 8, 2019, to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

"Prior to being bishop, Curry served as pastor of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale since 2013. He served as mission developer of Shekinah from 2007 to 2012. Bishop Curry received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2013. The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is one of seven ELCA seminaries. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the parents of three daughters."

I look forward to celebrating with all of you!

In Christ,

Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Treasurer's Report (as of August 31, 2019)

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD Budget Trended	Diff Act/ Budget
Offering Income	\$30,052.37	\$29,966.67	\$85.70
Other Income	\$15,805.35	\$17,150.00	(\$1,344.65)
Expense	\$74,107.28	\$71,710.81	(\$2,396.47)
Net	(\$28,249.56)	(\$24,594.15)	(\$3,655.41)

Worship and Christian Education

KIDS TIME

A special time for children will be offered on *Sunday, October 13th* and *Sunday, October 27th* during worship and will be led by some of our lay leaders. Children will be dismissed right before the sermon to participate in faith formation activities designed just for them. In addition to a story and theme for the day, there will be a related project for all participants. All children ages 3 through 6th grade are welcome.



Parish Events and Notes

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on *Thursday, October 3rd* and then again for Columbus Day on *Monday, October 14th*.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on *Thursday, October 10th* at 7:00 pm.

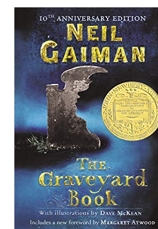
COFFEE AND . . .

In October, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on *Sunday, October 6th* in conjunction with our Night Ministry sandwich making service event. If you would like to volunteer to bring a treat to

share, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. We will meet to discuss the book on **Tuesday, October 15th** at 7:00 pm at the church. Snacks will be available. Please bring your own drink.



Questions? Please email or call the church office: acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com or 708-453-3662.

Serving the Congregation and the Larger Community



ST. CYPRIAN'S FOOD PANTRY

We continue to collect canned and non-perishable goods for [St. Cyprian's Food Pantry](#) the first Sunday of each month. Food donations may be left in the bin in the Narthex.

No open packages or expired food, please.



THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will be serving a meal to the homeless with [The Night Ministry](#) on **Sunday, October 6th**. We need volunteers to make sandwiches and pack dinner bags after worship as well as volunteers to drive and help distribute food. If you or anyone you know is interested in going to the location to hand out food and visit with the recipients, please contact Karen Lanners at 773-439-9893.

For more information on either of the above service projects, please call or email the church office at: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

There's still time to put together your Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief's Ingathering. The kits are easy to make! Follow this [link](#) to the LWR website for simple instructions on making and packing your care kits. When completed, bring your care kits to church, and place them in the Night Ministry collection bin in the Narthex no later than **Sunday, October 6th**.



OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the Sunday service schedule. We need members and friends who would like to serve as ushers or greeters. If you are interested in volunteering, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SERVICE DAY

Twenty-six members and friends from Acacia Park Lutheran Church volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on **Saturday, September 7th** for our God's Work. Our Hands. service project. Volunteers measured, weighed, bagged and packed nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved! Special thanks to Patti Mann for the photos! You can see more on our web page: acaciaparkchurch.com.



From the ELCA

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY



*You are cordially invited to attend the installation of Bishop Yehiel Curry, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service will take place on **Saturday, October 19, 2019**, 2 p.m., at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr., Tinley Park, IL 60477. Your prayers and presence are requested. Carpools will be available.*

***Pre-Installation Celebration Honoring Bishop Curry:** The African Descent Lutheran Association invites all to join them for a pre-installation celebration honoring Bishop Yehiel Curry on **Friday, October 18, 2019**, at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1100 E. 55th St., Chicago, IL 60615, beginning at 7 p.m.*

***Prayer and Fellowship Honoring Bishop Curry:** The African Descent Lutheran Association invites all to join them for prayer and fellowship honoring Bishop Yehiel Curry on **Sunday, October 13, 2019**, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Shekinah Chapel, 13800 S. Wabash Ave, Riverdale, IL 60827. For more information, contact LaShonda Curry at lashondahcurry@gmail.com.*

Fundraising

AMAZONSMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Acacia Park Lutheran Church every time you shop and at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience—including Amazon Prime member benefits—at Amazon.com. You'll also have the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Acacia Park.



Log on at <https://amazonmile.com> to get started shopping.

CHILI COOK OFF AND BINGO

Please plan on joining us in early November for our annual Chili Cook Off and Bingo. You'll enjoy an evening of sampling some of the best chili recipes from our community along with rounds of bingo and some great prizes. Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors. Everyone is welcome! Date and time to follow.

BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY WILL VISIT ACACIA PARK ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH!



Mark your calendars, and plan on joining us on *Sunday, October 27th* when newly-installed Bishop Yehiel Curry will visit Acacia Park Lutheran Church to share the word with us in honor of Reformation Sunday and our 91st anniversary. More details of the Bishop's visit to follow.

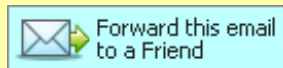
Our prayer for Bishop Curry, Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

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Connect with us on the web or by email by clicking:

acaciaparkchurch.com
acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com

Share your thoughts with us by phone:

708-453-3662

Celebrate with us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Church office hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.